

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the previous amendments and the following remarks.

The claims are amended to address the issue raised in paragraph "3" of the Official Action. Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101 is therefore respectfully requested.

Before turning to the prior art rejections, a brief discussion of a control apparatus according to a disclosed embodiment is provided. The control apparatus includes an XML data input/output interface 113 for receiving command data described in an extensible markup language. The command data includes a control code for initiating a process. An XML data analyzer 114 analyzes the command data. An MFP controller 121 executes the process associated with the control code, and is adapted to read the control code when the control code is included in a single tag that functions as both a start tag and an end tag, as discussed in paragraph [0048] of the application. As also discussed in that paragraph, the entire command data is in one line of code. Exemplary command data is illustrated in Fig. 3A, where the control code "PrintStart" is included in the single tag <PrintStart/> that functions as both a start tag and an end tag.

Additionally, an XML data generator 111 generates response data obtained by describing, in the extensible markup language, an element having the control code defined in a tag and a result of execution of the process as data. Exemplary response data is illustrated in Fig. 4A, where the control code "PrintStart" is defined in the tag constituted by <PrintStart> and </PrintStart>, and the result of execution of

the process is the tagged data "OK". Of course, the claimed invention is not limited to the disclosed embodiments.

Turning now to the claims, independent Claim 1 is rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,042,593, hereinafter Matsushima.

Amended Claim 1 recites a control apparatus including a receiver to receive command data described in an extensible markup language, an analyzer to analyze the command data, wherein the command data includes a control code for initiating a process, and a controller. The controller executes the process which is preliminarily associated with the control code, and is adapted to read the control code when the control code is included in a single tag that functions as both a start tag and an end tag.

Matsushima discloses an image processing device and method. In the method, an HTTP request to a digital multifunction device 1 is generated by a network 9, embedded XML data is analyzed, and a command is extracted, as discussed in lines 4-14 of column 8 of Matsushima. As discussed in lines 15-24 of column 8 of Matsushima and as illustrated in Fig. 8, an exemplary extracted command is "acquire image". As discussed in lines 25-37 of column 8 of Matsushima and as illustrated in Fig. 9, another exemplary extracted command is "print image".

In lines 12-14 on page 4 of the Official Action, the Examiner states that Fig. 9 illustrates an element in which a control code is defined in a tag and is constituted only by the tag. Although the Examiner fails to identify which portion of Fig. 9 is believed to be such a control code, it is assumed that the Examiner intends to refer to the control code "print" included in the start tag <print> and the end tag print

</print>. Clearly, this control code "print" is not included in a single tag that functions as both a start tag and an end tag.

Thus, Matsushima does not disclose a control apparatus including, among other elements, a controller which execute a process preliminarily associated with a control code and adapted to read the control code when the control code is included in a single tag that functions as both a start tag and an end tag, in combination with the other features recited in amended Claim 1.

Claim 1 is therefore allowable over Matsushita, and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Amended independent Claim 17 is allowable for reasons consistent with the above discussion of Claim 1.

The dependent claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from allowable independent claims. The dependent claims also recite further distinguishing aspects of the control apparatus at issue here. For example, Claims 2 and 18 recite that the entire command data is in one line of code. No such entire command data is disclosed in Hara.

Moreover, Claim 3 recites a response data generator which generates response data obtained by describing, in the extensible markup language, an element having the control code defined in a tag and a result of execution of the process as data, and Claim 19 recites transmitting response data described in the extensible markup language, including an element having said control code defined in the tag and having a result of execution of said process as data to an apparatus which has transmitted said command data. In lines 15-20 of the Official Action, the Examiner states that Matsushima's Fig. 5 illustrates response data obtained by

describing, in extensible markup language, an element having the previously discussed control code defined in a tag and a result of execution of the process as data. Fig. 5 is an example of an image's generated XML data, and Fig. 6 is an explanatory diagram showing the meanings of the XML tags of Fig. 5's XML data. However, the tag <print> is absent from both Figs. 5 and 6, and there is no data corresponding to the result of execution of a print process in the XML data of Fig. 5. Thus, Matsushima does not disclose extensible markup language describing an element having a control code defined in a tag and a result of execution of a process as data, in combination with the other features recited in those claims.

Early and favorable action with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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